

Serial No. 10/539,930**Atty. Doc. No. 2002P20039WOUS****RECEIVED
CENTRAL FAX CENTER****MAY 30 2007****REMARKS**

The Remarks provided in the paper submitted by the Applicant on 02 February 2007 are incorporated by reference herein. The following additional explanation of the novelty of newly presented claims 19 and 20 is provided.

New claims 19 and 20:

New independent claim 19 includes the limitations of "a clamping device selectively affixable to the inner casing in a radially inward operating position for securing the guide blade to the inner casing during operation of the turbine and selectively affixable to the inner casing in a radially outward parking position remote from a clearance profile of the guide blade during removal of the guide blade from the turbine through the combustion chamber without opening of the inner casing during maintenance of the turbine."

Claim 19 is patentable over Morley because Morley teaches away from such limitations because both the root 22 and tip 21 of the guide blade of Morley are secured by structures that are not accessible from the combustion chamber 12 and that are not accessible without the inner casing 26, 30, 48 having to be opened. Access to the unnumbered bolt at the lower left portion of FIG. 2 of Morley is blocked by the walls of the combustion chamber 12, and access to the bolt 49 is blocked by the outer casing 32 and the support ring 30, so that a fitter working within the combustion chamber would be unable to release the guide blade root 22 or tip 21.

Claim 19 is also patentable over Hirst which is directed to an improved labyrinth seal disposed at the tip end of a guide blade. Hirst does not teach the claimed structure for affixing the guide blade so that they can be removed from the combustion chamber without opening the inner casing.

Heumann also teaches away from these limitations, as illustrated in FIG. 1 of Heumann which illustrates a combustor mounting flange 22 blocking access to the fastener 26 and nut 50 from the combustion chamber 10. The Japanese '610 reference fails to rectify this shortcoming of Heumann. Thus, claim 19 is patentable over these references.

Claim 20 depends from claim 19 and is thus patentable over the cited art. Furthermore, claim 20 adds the further limitations of "an elongated hole formed in the inner casing; and a tie

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rod of the clamping device extending through a radially inward portion of the elongated hole to secure the clamping device in the operating position and extending through a radially outward portion of the elongated hole to secure the clamping device in the parking position." None of the prior art references teach such a hole and tie rod that allows the tie rod to be secured in the two alternative positions.

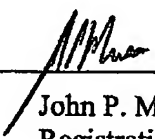
Conclusion:

The commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees due in connection with this paper, or to credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 19-2179.

Respectfully submitted,

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